

FALL 2020  
Department of English  
4708A: Studies in American Lit 1  
AMERICAN WOMEN'S WRITINGS

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the department.

Classes: Wednesday 8:30 – 11:30

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Priscilla L. Walton

Office: DT 1807

Telephone: 520-2600, ext. 2322

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OUTLINE:

Topic: "Those Damn Scribbling Women" (N. Hawthorne)

This course will focus on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century American women's writing. Beginning at the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the course spans U.S. women's fiction until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, concentrating on realist texts and their transitions throughout the period.

TEXTS:

Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*

Chopin, Kate, *The Awakening*

Wharton, Edith, *The House of Mirth*

Willa Cather, *O Pioneers!*

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

Nella Larsen, *Passing*

Jacqueline Susann, *The Valley of the Dolls*

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

Ruth Ozick, *A Tale for the Time Being*

Julie Powell, *Julie and Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously*

REQUIREMENTS:

One Essay (2000-2500 words)	- 50%
Seminars	- 25%
Participation (Attendance, participation, consistent progress).	- 25%
	<u>100%</u>

**Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.**

ENGLISH 4708-A: American Women's Writings

PROPOSED SYLLABUS

September 9	Introduction
September 16	<i>Little Women</i>
September 23	<i>The Awakening</i>
September 30	<i>The House of Mirth</i>
October 7	"The Yellow Wallpaper"
October 14	<i>O Pioneers!</i>
October 21	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>
October 28	<b>Fall Break</b>
November 4	<i>Passing</i>
November 11	<i>Valley of the Dolls</i>
November 18	<i>A Tale for the Time Being</i> <b>Essays Due in Class</b>
November 25	<i>Brothers and Sisters</i>
December 2	<i>Julie and Julia</i>
December 9	To Be Announced

## **Assignments**

### **SEMINARS:**

Class presentations will focus on an aspect of the text under study that week. Presentations will address questions raised by the narrative, explore problems in relation to it, and/or assess its social and cultural movements.

### **ESSAY TOPIC**

Due Date: November 18, 2020

Length: 2500-3000 words (10-12 pp.)

Students will submit a critical assessment of one of the questions (or problems, or issues) that has arisen from the course material. Essays will comprise well-researched and scholarly analyses of the topic under study, after that has been approved by the professor.

### **Plagiarism:**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

The policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf>

**Accommodations:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details click [here](#).

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details click [here](#).

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520- 6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

**Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

**Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>